Selection of SC/ST/OBCs on merit basis

3008. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the 'reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the last three years under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) For Group 'A' posts recruitment is made by Department of Personnel and Training. As regards the posts in Groups B, C & D, category-wise vacancies are intimated to Department of Personnel and Training. As per records, no such case has come to the notice of this Ministry.

Exploration of CBM in Raniganj

3009. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC had applied for grant of PEL for an area of 240 sq. km. in North Raniganj in Raniganj Coalfield on 23rd November, 98 for CBM exploration;

(b) whether four slim holes have been drilled so far; and

(c) how much time it would take to ascertain the course of furthering CBM exploration in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.